

can reduce the incidence of aggressive and risky behavior that often leads to delinquency. In 1998, there were approximately 1 million confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect. Research indicates that children who experience some form of violence in their homes are more likely to behave violently throughout adolescence and into adulthood. Any comprehensive approach to curb juvenile delinquency and promote positive youth development must consider the impact of domestic violence, abuse, and neglect on a child's development and respond to the interplay between these factors.

—The Bush budget slashes discretionary spending on state and local law enforcement assistance by \$1 billion. Specifically, funding of the Edward Byrne Memorial state and local law enforcement program is reduced.

My package includes legislation that would expand discretionary grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program by \$31 million. Contrary to popular perception, the vast majority of children involved in the juvenile justice system are non-violent offenders. Less than 10 percent of young people who come in contact with the juvenile justice system are serious, habitual, violent offenders. The challenge with all juvenile offenders—both violent and non-violent—is to determine what leads children to make bad choices, to identify those children at high risk for serious delinquent or risky behavior, and to provide appropriate interventions. A 1998 study suggests that the lifetime cost associated with a child who drops out of high school and enters the criminal justice system can reach \$1.5 million.

The Bush budget freezes funds for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after school program at the fiscal year 2002 level.

Furthermore, the Bush budget eliminates a \$60 million grant program to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to operate clubhouses in public housing projects and high-crime areas in cooperation with local police.

My legislation would also expand after school crime prevention programs by providing matching grant funds to private and public programs involved in effective after school juvenile crime prevention. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 7 million children are left home alone after school each week. It has been well-documented that after school programs help to curb delinquent behavior when it most frequently occurs—between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. However, these programs do more than just make communities safer, they also help to ensure positive youth development. Youths who participate in after-school and youth development programs are less likely to use drugs, drink alcohol, or become sexually active, and are more likely to have stronger interpersonal skills, higher academic achievement, and healthier relationships with others. Quality after-school programs also have a lasting impact on children's attitudes, values, and skills.

My Youth Violence Prevention Package is designed to prevent youth from turning to violence by supporting prevention efforts, crisis intervention and support services and limiting opportunities for troubled kids to obtain firearms. I ask my colleagues to support this legislative package and to continue efforts to provide needed funds for these critical programs.

We all must work together to protect children and ensure their healthy development.

IN HONOR OF UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Service Organization for 60 years of service to be celebrated on May 19, 2001 at the USO Military Ball.

The USO, created in 1941 as a merger among six private organizations, began serving to handle the on-leave recreation needs for the members of the Armed Forces. By 1944, USOs were found in over 3,000 locations nationwide. Early on, the entertainment industry supported the USO in beginning the "Camp Shows" with the entertainers waiving pay and working conditions to bring live entertainment to the troops at US bases in America.

After WWII, the USO also provided entertainment for service men and women internationally, opening up service in North Korea, Vietnam and Thailand. During the 1970s, outreach programs increased as did the number of military families worldwide. Since this time, the USO was signed into law as a United States Charter.

Most recently, the USO has provided services in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Bahrain, Somalia, Bosnia and Hungary. The USO's commitment to be a link to our service men and women continues world wide with the same determination and dedication which first created this organization. My dear colleagues, please join me in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United Service Organization.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, little more than one year ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian became the tenth President of the Republic of China. During the first twelve months of President Chen's administration, he sustained the hallmark political and economic reforms that position Taiwan among the most democratic and prosperous places in Asia.

President Chen demonstrated sincerity when seeking meaningful dialogues with his counterparts in the People's Republic of China, and worked hard to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Today, President Chen hopes to improve Taiwan's situation within the global community, and I support his efforts. In the end, his persistence will yield great rewards.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely congratulate President Chen Shui-bian on a successful first year. As we look forward to an even brighter future, I encourage him to keep up the good work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 22 I was unavoidably not able to be present for votes on Roll Call numbers 126 through 134. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 126: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, "yea."

Rollcall 127: H.R. 1185, Extension of Section 245(i) of the Immigration Act, "yea".

Rollcall 128: Capps amendment to H.R. 1, "yea".

Rollcall 129: Graves amendment to H.R. 1, "yea".

Rollcall 130: Hoekstra amendment to H.R. 1, "yea".

Rollcall 131: Dunn amendment to H.R. 1, "yea".

Rollcall 132: Tiberi amendment to H.R. 1, "no".

Rollcall 133: Vitter amendment to H.R. 1, "yea".

Rollcall 134: Passage of H.R. 1831, Relief for Small Businesses Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, "yea".

HONORING THE NEWARK BOYS CHORUS SCHOOL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, tonight the Kennedy Center will feature as part of its Millennium Stage State Days series a very talented group of students from the Tenth Congressional District of New Jersey whom I was privileged to nominate, the Newark Boys Chorus School. I am so proud of these outstanding young performing artists who have traveled to Washington to share their gift of song at one of America's most prestigious theaters.

Known as Newark's "Finest Ambassadors," The Newark Boys Chorus has been heard throughout the world. The chorus has performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Cathedral Symphony and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Locations where they have performed include the Lincoln Center, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Carnegie Hall and the White House. With over forty concerts each season, television appearances, tours to Japan, Italy, China, Czechoslovakia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, the boys have become symbols of Newark's renaissance. The chorus sings for CEOs, Governors and Mayors; they sing in corporate settings, in country clubs and concert halls. They visit museums and libraries, attend plays and symphonies and engage in recreational activities such as skiing, hiking and swimming.

Training for the Chorus School requires hard work and discipline as the boys continue to maintain academic excellence. These outstanding students are sought after by such selective secondary schools as Blair Academy,